Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society
KERN CHAPTER

MARCH 2019

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Part Two
Mary Foster DeDecker (1909-2000):
Botanist, Environmentalist, Author, Mentor, Mother . . . and More

by Nancy Nies

Budding Botanist

Photo by Nancy Nies

Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, Independence, CA — 10 August 2018.

INTERSPERSED AMONG THE memories that Mary's daughters share in **Sage & Sierra** are vignettes of their mother, as her passion for the eastern Sierra's native plants grew and as she taught herself botany. Here are my favorite images: Mary on her hands and knees, holding her hand lens and teaching her young daughters the names of wildflowers; Mary delightedly discovering and studying alpine plants new to her, on family pack trips into the Sierra, making notes and taking pictures; Mary being thrilled with her 1940s purchase of **Willis L. Jepson's A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California**, at the exorbitant price of eleven dollars; Mary sitting at the dining room table, in the evening after an outing, sneezing again and again as she identified plants, using her lens and tweezers; and Mary's supportive husband **Paul** making her a plant press, as well as cupboards in the garage to house her extensive specimen collection.

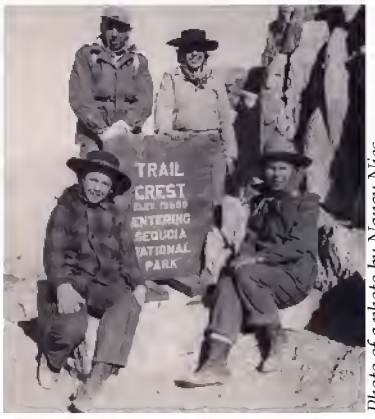


Photo of a photo by Nancy Nies

DeDecker family, 1940s.

I particularly enjoyed **Carol Wiens'** account of a chance meeting with the legendary mountain-climber **Norman Clyde**. In the course of the DeDeckers' many trips into the Sierra, they would sometimes encounter him. On one of these occasions, Clyde said, "*Mary, I have a plant to show you. Maybe you can tell me what it is.*" Carol goes on to say, "*Joan and I watched with fascination as he held his enormous pack upside down and gave it a good shake. Out came sooty pots, bags of food, books, extra boots, and dirty socks. And finally he found the flower that*

Photo of a photo by Nancy Nies

Mary DeDecker — 1993.

had caught his attention. It was a new one for Mama, and she made some notes for its identification at home."

In Full Flower

Mary's daughter **Joan Busby** writes that when she and her sister were growing up, her mother's primary concerns were her family and community, but that next came her focus on botany. According to Joan, her mother would correspond with botanists at academic institutions around the country, sending them specimens from the remote eastern Sierra, and would eventually donate, to the herbarium of the **Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden** in Claremont, her collection of over six thousand specimens. Joan goes on to say that Mary also studied the history, geology, and birds of the Owens Valley and the eastern Sierra, and speculates that it was her mother's interrelated interests that led to Mary's becoming an environmentalist.

In Joan's words, Mary *"worked tirelessly to protect the land she so cherished."* The LADWP, which had in the 1930s employed Mary's husband Paul in the construction of the Mono Basin Aqueduct, was responsible for Mono Lake's loss of 45 vertical feet between 1941 and 1990, and for the resulting disappearance of meadows, ponds, trees and shrubs. In the 1970s Mary helped found the **Owens Valley Committee**, a local citizens' group formed to bring legal action against the LADWP. Mary testified at hearings and wrote articles on the importance of protecting the area's rare plants. Today species like *Sidalcea covillei* (**Owens Valley checkerbloom)**, a rare alkali meadow endemic, are recovering, and *"there is little doubt that Mary's constant vigilance, knowledge and professional expertise had a positive influence,"* writes Mary's longtime friend **Betty Gilchrist**.

Mary DeDecker founded the **Bristlecone** chapter of CNPS in 1982. The chapter's memorial tribute calls her *"an outspoken conservationist"* who worked not only to protect the **Owens Valley** from the environmental damage of water exports, but also to protect the **Eureka Dunes** from off-road vehicle use. She was especially concerned about the harm ORVs could do to a rare butterfly bush found there, *Buddleja utahensis*. Betty Gilchrist describes Mary as *"a fiery little lady with [a] soft, firm voice [who] was able to stand up to all manner of bureaucrats and politicians. Using her knowledge and experience to exert her influence, she made a difference."*

In addition to her botanical and conservation work, Mary worked outside the home for a total of 25 years, first as a school secretary and later at the Title Insurance and Trust Company. Also an author, Mary had in 1966 published **Mines of the Eastern Sierra**, in 2000 reissued by Spotted Dog Press as **Death Valley to Yosemite: Frontier Mining Camps & Ghost Towns**. In 1984, CNPS published her **Flora of the Northern Mojave Desert, California**. This was an expanded version of the northern Mojave plant inventory that the **BLM** had asked Mary to contribute to its **Desert Study Program**, begun in 1970. *"I found more plants here than they thought they had in the entire desert," said Mary.*

For her work in botany and conservation, Mary received numerous awards. Of particular interest here is the fact that she was named a **CNPS Fellow** in 1977, and that she received the **CNPS Rare Plant Conservation Award** in 1988. She was also recognized by the local Sierra Club chapter, which gave her its **Andrea Lawrence Lifetime Achievement Award** in 1999. It can be said that, like a rare plant thriving in the arid Owens Valley, Mary exemplified the concept *"bloom where you are planted."*

A Perennial Legacy

When Mary DeDecker died in 2000, having led a full life, she left a lasting, living legacy. In studying plants and creating an extensive private herbarium, she had contributed a great deal to knowledge of the botany of the eastern Sierra and northern Mojave. In speaking out on behalf of the area's native plants and environment, she had made a difference in their protection. In authoring two books, she had shared her beloved eastern California with the public at large.

Mary had, in the course of her 91 years, also touched many lives. The Bristlecone chapter's tribute explains that through teaching courses and leading field trips, she had become *"an inspirational mentor for many aspiring botanists and conservationists."* Of Mary's trips, Betty Gilchrist writes: *"One of Mary's natural talents and great interests was sharing her specialized knowledge, most often on well-planned and researched field trips . . . and her simple, charming manner drew many of us into a consuming interest in botany just for the joy of it."*

The **Eastern Sierra Museum**'s **Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden**, set against a backdrop of Sierra peaks and planted with over a hundred plants native to the Owens Valley, is a living tribute to Mary. As visitors enter the garden, they see a plaque, mounted on a piece of Sierra granite. Placed in 2002 by the

Bristlecone chapter, its wording briefly but beautifully describes the life and legacy of this exceptional woman:

"A pioneering self-taught botanist, her botanical discoveries and ardent commitment catalyzed protection of this region's unique flora. As wife, mother, grandmother, friend and community leader, she taught us to follow dreams and work to protect the beauty and diversity of our natural world. May her memory inspire us to continue the work she began." The plaque's inscription ends with Mary's words: *"Oh, just let's go around the next corner to see what we can find!"*

Author's note: Many thanks to **Joan DeDecker Busby** and **Carol DeDecker Wiens** for their wonderful memoir, and to **Stephen Ingram**, **Anne Halford** and **Betty Gilchrist** of the Bristlecone chapter, for their thoughtful tribute to Mary DeDecker. ✿

33rd Annual Sierra Club Windmill-Wildflower Hike

May 18

by Paul Gipe

THE SIERRA CLUB'S WINDMILL-WILDFLOWER hike meets at the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) trailhead kiosk at the junction of the Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road and Cameron Road. It's a six-mile hike with a car shuttle on the PCT from Cameron Road-North.

Dress appropriately and bring a lunch and water. Contact **Paul Gipe (661-325-9590)** for details and to arrange carpooling from Bakersfield. Note: this is a hike and not a CNPS function. Botanists are welcome as there is little time for keying plants. ✿

Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, March 21, 2019 - 7 pm *
Presenter: **Rich Spjut,** President Kern CNPS
Topic: *What does Kern's flora have in common with Patagonia's?*

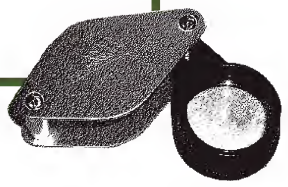
Thursday, April 18, 2019 - 7 pm
Presenter: **Camdilla Wirth**, biologist **Sequoia Riverlands Trust**
Topic: *The Carrizo Plain*

Thursday, May 16, 2019 - 7 pm
Presenter: **Jean-Philippe (JP) Marie**, manager, **UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve**
Topic: *Native Grasses*

All chapter meetings are held the **3rd Thursday** of each month, usually at 1300 17th Street, Room 1A or 1B, Bakersfield, CA. **Check website for any change of venue.**

Meeting times:
6 pm — Discussion groups on plant identification and native plant gardening
7 pm — Program presentation

* *This meeting will be held at the Larry Reider Bldg., 2000 K St., Rm. 204 Bakersfield, CA*



California Native Plant Society

CNPS is the leader for providing reliable information on California native plants and plant conservation. Comprehensive information about California's flora and vegetation communities is available throughout the state for conservation and educational purposes. CNPS's leadership influences personal ethics and actions, as well as public policy for native plant protection.

President's Message: Conflicting Taxonomy of Menzies' Fiddleneck, *Amsinckia menziesii* (Lehmann) Nelson & J. F. Macbride

by Richard Spjut

Amsinckia vernicosa, Bitter Creek Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, distinguished by shiny stems without hairs.

AMONG EARLY SPRING flowers in Kern County are species of fiddleneck classified in the genus *Amsinckia*. We often see them in great masses. Yet, I can't always confidently identify them at glance, except for two that lack hairs on the stem, *A. furcata* and *A. vernicosa*; only the latter of the two recognized by Twisselmann (1967)[1] who reported it *"scarce in the Temblor Range, usually in dense colonies in light often gypseous soils."*

As many as 209 fiddleneck species have been recognized, but only by **W. Suksdorf** (1931).[2] The genus is predominantly found in western North America, most diverse in California South Coast Ranges, and introduced elsewhere around the world, except for few that naturally dispersed to South America. What follows is a taxonomic review of currently-applied scientific names for Menzies' and related fiddlenecks according to the International Code of Nomenclature (ICN); names we often take for granted by publishing them without their authors in our newsletters. *Amsinckia menziesii* was first described by **Johann Lehmann** (1830);[3] he named it *Echium menziesii*, in honor of **Archibald Menzies** who collected it along the Pacific Northwest Coast, June 1788.

Amsinckia douglasiana, Bitter Creek Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, four-lobed calyx. Mericarps with cobblestone (tessellate) surface - Mar. 2010.

Prior to Suksdorf (1931), **J. F. Macbride** (1917)[4] revised the genus *Amsinckia*, recognizing 23 species, and **Brand** (1928)[5] described ten more. Since Suksdorf, interpretations of the fiddleneck species and varieties vary widely; for example, **Twisselmann** (1967) recognized five species and two varieties, among which is *A. intermedia* Fischer & Meyer (1836) var. *californica* (Suksdorf) Hoover (1943),[6] originally collected from Caliente in Kern County. Twisselmann distinguished it by the smooth tubercles on its fruitlets,[7] compared to the transverse wavy ridges on the fruitlets of var. *intermedia*, a widespread variable species, the type[8] from Bodega Bay. However, var. *californica* has not been recognized in recent floras, the name not even mentioned in **Maynard Moe**'s updated and revised Twisselmann flora (2016).[9] Moe distinguished eight species and one variety in his key, that generally follows **Ronald B. Kelley** and **Fred R. Ganders** in the 2nd ed. (2012) of the **Jepson Manual** who distinguished eleven species and four varieties for all of California, preceded by Ganders alone in the first edition (1993).

Amsinckia cf. *intermedia*, Bitter Creek Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge. Five-lobed calyx, with one lobe split halfway; mericarps with transverse wavy ridges - Mar. 2010.

Amsinckia vernicosa, Bitter Creek Natl. Wildlife Refuge. Four-lobed calyx (or three-lobed and one deeply divided) surrounding smooth fruitlets (mericarps) angled at margin - Mar. 2010.

The main difference in the Jepson Manuals is the addition of *A. retrorsa* in JM2, first described by Suksdorf (1900).[10] In JM2, it is distinguished in part by having simple erect stems with relatively soft appressed to reflexed hairs, in contrast to *A. menziesii* with coarse spreading to reflexed hairs. These differences seem minor compared to variation in other species, especially *A. intermedia*. Twisselmann cited *A. retrorsa* in syno-nymy of *A. menziesii*, which he reported rare in the Temblor Range.

Amsinckia menziesii is also treated differently in the Jepson Manuals and other literature, notably Abrams (1951),[11] Ray & Chisaki (1957),[12] Munz (1959),[13] Cronquist et al. (1984),[14] and Welsh et al. (2017).[15] For example, the plant is described either *decumbent* to *ascending* in JM2, or *"upright"* (Munz 1959) to *"strictly erect"* (Welsh et al. 2017). Lehmann's 1830 description, — *"caulis herbaceous, erectus, angulatus, sulcatus, retrorsum hispidissmus,"* clearly states the plant is erect with hispid retrorse hairs; this agrees with images I have seen of putative type specimens at BM and lectotype at MEL.[16]

Amsinckia retrorsa, collected by Suksdorf, Possible type (US), NMNH, Smithsonian Institution terms and conditions 3.

Amsinckia menziesii taxonomy is further complicated by what material Lehmann used for naming and describing the species. Although Lehmann had described *Echium menziesii* in 1830, he described the genus *Amsinckia* in 1831, in a Hamburg seed list, based on *A. lycopsoides*. This species was described in a later seed list, January 1836,[17] from plants grown from seed collected by Douglas *"above the rapids of the Columbia,"* distinguished by the corolla bearded inside around the throat and by the stamens inserted near the base. It was not until 1916 that *E. menziesii* was transferred to *Amsinckia* by Nelson & Macbride (Bot. Gazette 61:30-47).

Echium menziesli, collected by Menzies, putative type (BM), annotated by P. Ray, "?isotype." Attribution 4.0 International.

Another fiddleneck named by Lehmann, *Lithospermum lycopsoides* (1830, Pugillus 2: 28), was collected by the Scottish naturalist, **John Scouler,** along the *"Straits of de Fuca in N.W. America."* It is not the same as Lehmann's 1831 *A. lycopsoides*. It was renamed *A. scouleri* by **I. M. Johnston** (1935)[18] that has since been synonymized under *A. spectabilis* Fisher & C. A. Meyer (Welsh et al. 2017).

Amsinckia cf. *micrantha,* March 2005, vacant lot along Pegasus Drive before developed. Leaves wide spreading. See illustrations in JM2, *A. menziesii*, and in E. Retief and A. E. van Wyk 2001. S. African J. Bot. 67:287-293. *A. retrorsa*.

Amsinckia cf. *micrantha* fruit from plant above, five-lobed calyx, the lobes lanceolate, spreading. Mericarps densely covered with icicle-like tubercles.

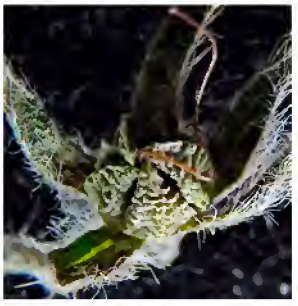
Surprisingly, *Amsinckia menziesii* was not mentioned by Abrams (1951). Perhaps he may have questioned its validity. P. Lassen (1988),[19] who annotated *Amsinckia* types at MEL and BM, stated *"**Amsinckia menziesii**, correctly a synonym of **A. lycopsoides**, has been used mainly for two distinct species: **A. micrantha Suksd.**, and **A. retrorsa Suksd.**; both are lectotypified here."* Interestingly, both were recognized by Abrams (1951); the type locality the same for both species, and their geographic ranges overlap: *"Upper Sonoran and Transitions Zones mainly east of the Cascades from British Columbia and Idaho south to the Willamette Valley and eastern Oregon," A. retrorsa* extending further south to southern California.

In summary, the lectotype for *Echium menziesii* corresponds to *A. lycopsoides*, which is the type species for the genus, and after the name was transferred to *Amsinckia*, it was later discovered to be a synonym of *A. lycopsoides*. What is identified in Kern County and described elsewhere in literature as *A. menziesii* may be *A. micrantha*, which has been regarded as a synonym of *A. menziesii*.

A logical choice for *Echium menziesii* lectotype might have been Menzies' specimen at BM questioned isotype by **Ray** (BM001024959), later accepted by **Cronquist** et al. (1984) as isotype, evidently under the presumption of a holotype at MEL;[20] however, the BM and MEL specimens are not the same. The designated lectotype (MEL 101643) — determined to be *A. lycopsoides* by **Lassen** — is supported by the historical annotations on the specimen indicating that it was from the **Lehmann Herbarium**, that it was collected on Menzies Island [by **Douglas** and **Scouler**, 02 May 1825, now Hayden Island, in the Columbia River near Portland], and that it was identified in the field as *Myosotis* (Johnston, 1935)]. These attributes along with an extracted flower mounted separately on the MEL herbarium specimen — revealing stamens inserted near corolla base — corresponds to Lehman's 1830 description of *E. menziesii*: *"Filamenta brevissima subaequalis, versus basin tubi inserta."* Further, Menzies' specimens at BM have been annotated *A. intermedia* by Lassen. A critical unresolved issue is whether Lehman's original material included BM or other specimens of *Echium menziesii*; for example, the handwriting of *Echium menziesii* appears similar on BM and MEL specimens. Aside from this, the occurrence of *A. menziesii* in California has been *"in need of verification"* (Kelley & Ganders, Jepson eflora *"unabridged note"*), and that *A. retrorsa* has been treated as a synonym (Ray & Chisaki 1957), or variety

Amsinckia cf. *rostrata,* Kern River Canyon. Mericarps with pimple-like tubercles (muricate), Mar. 2009.

Amsinckia eastwoodiae, San Joaquin Valley near foothills of Tehachapi Mts. near Arvin. 5-lobed calyx, mericarps with Stegosaurus-like backbone - Mar. 2010.



Amsinckia cf. intermedia, 5-lobed calyx; mericarps with unusual distinctive scale-like-tubercles, collectively resembling a pine cone, Tejon Ranch Conservancy. Mar 2015.

Continued from page 5...

(Reveal & Schuyler 1999).[21] Perhaps more taxonomic weight should be given to mericarp features for distinguishing fiddleneck species; e.g., key in **Jepson** 1925 [22] and images shown above from *http://www.worldbotanical.com/amsinckia.htm.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Literature/library sources consulted include online **Tropicos** and **Biodiversity Heritage Library**. Thanks also to staff at the **National Herbarium of Victoria at Melbourne (MEL)** for providing high resolution image of their *Amsinckia menziesii* lectotype, and reference to **BM** and **Jstor** where images of types are also available; to **Pina Milne**, Collections Manager; to **Rita Macheda** for producing the image, and to **Angharad Johnson**, Digitizing Officer. Thanks also to **Dr. Mark Carine**, Principal Curator-in-Charge, **Algae, Fungi and Plants Division**, **Department of Life Sciences, The Natural History Museum**, London (BM) for providing high-quality images of specimens collected by Menzies of *Echium menziesii*. Images of type specimens for other species at other herbaria also consulted and cited above.

ENDNOTES:

1 Twisselmann, E. C. 1967. A Flora of Kern County, California, p. 321–322.

2 Suksdorf W. 1931. Untersuchen in der Gattung *Amsinckia.* Werenda Beitrage zur Pflanzenkunde 1(5-8):47-113. Wilhelm Nikolaus Suksdorf (September 15, 1850 – October 3, 1932) was a German–American botanist, who specialized in the flora of the Pacific Northwest. He was largely self-taught and is considered one of the top three self-taught botanists of his era for the Pacific Northwest; the other two being Thomas Jefferson Howell and William Conklin Cusick" (Wikipedia, accessed 2-17-2019).

3 Lehmann J.G. C. (1830). *Minus Cognitarum Stirpium*, Pulgillus I, Enumeratione Plantarum Ominum 2: 28–30

4 Macbride J. F. 1917. A revision of the North American species of Amsinckia. Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, issue 69, pp. 1-16. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

5 Brand A. 1928. Decas specierum novarum octava. Repertorium Specierum Novarum Regni Vegetabilis 25: 210-214.

6 Jepson, W. 1943. A California Flora. Cunningham, Curtis & Welch.

7 Fruitlet defined in Spjut 1994, Systematic Treatment of Fruit Types, NYBG Memoirs Vol. 70. A part of a fruit that functions as a seed-dispersing unit. *Amsinckia* fruit, a microbasarium (De Candolle 1813. Théorie élém. bot. 383), develops from a bicarpellate gynoecium; each of two carpels divide at maturity into half-carpels, called mericarps, in the literature commonly referred to as "nutlets."

8 Application of names of taxa at the rank of family or below is determined by means of nomenclatural types. ICN Art. 7.1). Holotype—specimen or illustration indicated by the author; or the only specimen used by the author; isotype—duplicate of holotype. If no type indicated, a lectotype may be designated from the syntypes (ICN Art. 9.3).

9 Moe, L. Maynard. Kern County Flora. 2016. CNPS.

10 Suksdorf (1900). Deutsche Bot. Monatsschr. 18(9): 134.

11 Abrams, L. 1951. An Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States: Washington, Oregon, and California, Vol. 3: *Geraniaceae* to *Scrophulariaceae*, Geraniums to Figworts, pp. 603-609. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.

12 Ray, P. M. and H. F. Chisaki. 1957. Studies in *Amsinckia I.* A synopsis of the genus, with a study of heterostyli in it. Amer. J. Bot. 44(6): 529–554.

13 Munz, P. (with D. Keck) 1959. A California Flora: p. 587–589, Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley, CA.

14 Cronquist A, A. H. & N.H. Holmgren, J. L. Reveal, and P.L. Holmgren. 1984. Intermountain Flora 4: 276–278.

15 Welsh, S. L., K. E. Panter, S. M. Colegate, D. R. Gardner, P. S Cuneo, T. Z. Davis, B. L. Stegelmeier, and C. A. Stonecipher. 2017. Taxonomic review of *Amsinckia. Int.* J. Pharmacognosy and Phytochem. Res. 4: 24–35.

16 BM (Museum of Natural History in London), CAS (California Academy of Sciences), GH (Gray Herbarium, Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge), MEL (National Herbarium of Victoria at Melbourne, Australia), UC (University of California, Berkeley), US (United States National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institution Dept. Botany). Acronyms for herbaria [Herbarium singular] according to Index Herbariorum, Thiers, B. [continuously updated]: A global directory of public herbaria and associated staff. New York Botanical Garden's Virtual Herbarium. *http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/ih/.*

17 Fischer, F. E. L. and C. A. von Meyer. 1836. Index seminum, quae Hortus Botanicus Imperialis Petropolitanus 2.

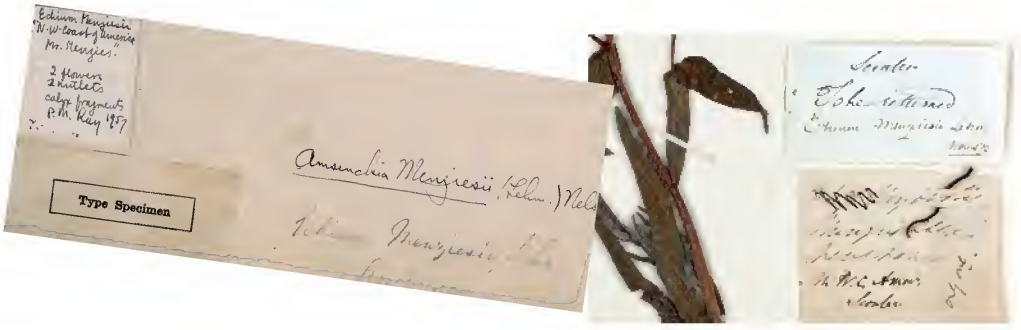
18 Johnston, I. M. 1935. Studies in *Boraginaceae*, XI. J. Arnold Arb.16: p. 197–205.

19 Lassen, P. On the genus *Amsinckia.* Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift 82: 140–150 [In Swedish, English summary).

20 Stafleu, F, A, and R. S. Cowan. 1979. Taxonomic Literature, H-Le, 2nd ed. Noted under Lehmann: the Boraginaceae in the Lehmann herbarium "were acquired by O. W. Sonder (now at MEL) according to information provided by A. B. Court."

21 Reveal, J. L., G. E. Moulton, and A. E. Schuyler. 1999. The Lewis and Clark Collections of vascular plants: Names, types, and comments. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 149: 1–64.

22 Jepson, W. L. 1925. A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California. Univ. California Press. ✿



Comparison of handwriting of *Echium menzierii* on labels of type specimens at MEL (right) and BM (left). Right specimen lower label, *Myosotis*, Menzies Island, N. (North) W. (West) C. (Coast) America, Scouler, bottom left corner, annotated by P. M. Ray on packet containing fragments.

FIELD TRIPS

by Patty Gradek with Rich Spjut

KERN CNPS FIELD TRIPS ARE OPEN TO ALL. Occasionally, numbers will be limited by the land owners or agencies. We welcome you to join us to see and learn about our native plants and their habitats, to learn to identify plants, or to photograph them. If you are skilled in plant identification, you can help us all learn.

Please always dress in layers, wear boots or shoes you can hike in, and bring food and water. You may also want to bring a hat, sunscreen, binoculars, camera, plant lists and useful references such as **Kern County Flora** and the **Jepson Manual**, or any book you like. We try to meet at a spot where we can park some cars and carpool to our location to save the air, gas, money and make sure that we will have adequate space to park. CNPS does not arrange car pools; each person does so at the meeting place. If you ride with another driver, please remember to offer to help pay for gas.

All trips are by reservation only, so we know whom to expect, and how many will be participating in each field trip. Each trip will have the contact person listed. Please email the contact person by four days before the field trip and indicate the names of those who will attend. Please also provide a cell-phone number, in case we need to reach you that day, and indicate whether you will be driving a four-wheel-drive, AWD or high-clearance vehicle. We may need to limit participation for some trips if we don't have an adequate number of four-wheel-drive, AWD or high-clearance vehicles for all the participants.

IMPORTANT: **If your plans or your party's plans change and you will not be attending, it is critical — for safety, planning and courtesy reasons — that you call or email the contact person and let them know you will not be there.**

March 16, Saturday

DESERT TORTOISE RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
with **Lucy Clark** and **Jill Estrada**
Contact: **Lucy Clark** – *lucyg391@gmail.com*
RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Tuesday, March 12**

We have been invited to join the Preserve Manager and volunteers of the **Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee** for their work day at the Natural Area on **March 16th**. The focus for this work day is to remove invasive species from selected areas. They are excited to have CNPS members participate in this important project. The Committee provides a potluck lunch. Please bring something to share with the group. In the afternoon we will drive to nearby areas to observe desert wildflower blooms.

Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.

Please RSVP to Lucy at *lucy391@gmail.com* by **March 12** at **8 pm.** Those who RSVP will be given the location to meet the morning of **March 16** and the meeting time. We will likely be leaving the meeting location about **7:30 am**. Plan on this being a full day. Lucy will RSVP to the **Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee** for all attending with/from CNPS.

Bring your food to share, water, drinks, hat and sunscreen, dress in layers, and wear long pants. Wear boots if you have them. There are restrooms as we enter California City in the morning and we will stop again on our way home. There are beautiful long views, friendly people from the **Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee**, a good chance of seeing abundant desert wildflowers, and a great potluck lunch!

March 30, Saturday

KERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
With **Geoff Grisdale**
Contact: **Fred Chynoweth** - *rdnmnt18@gmail.com*
RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Tuesday, March 26**

Geoff Grisdale, Wildlife Biologist with the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, will take us on a tour of the **Kern National Wildlife Refuge**. The Refuge includes a **Desert Research Natural Area** for endangered Tipton kangaroo rats, San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizards. We're expecting to see good wildflower displays at that time.

We will meet at the BLM parking lot at **3801 Pegasus Drive** at **7:45 am** and will form carpools. We will leave by **8:00 am** and arrive at the Refuge around 8:30am. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is limiting this trip to **15 people**.

If you would like to attend, RSVP to **Fred Chynoweth** at *rdnmnt18@gmail.com* by **March 26** at **8 pm**. Let Fred know what vehicle you will be driving, since we would like to have a couple of larger vehicles to transport people from the headquarters to wildflower destinations. Restrooms are available at the Refuge headquarters. Bring your lunch, water, sunhat, and sunscreen, and wear boots. There may be wet areas to walk through. We will leave the Refuge about **12:30 pm** and arrive back at the BLM parking lot by **1:00 pm**.

Photo: Dinah Campbell

April 10, Wednesday

CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT
with **Denis Kearns**
Contact:
Denis Kearns – *cyclanthera@netscape.net*
RSVP Deadline: **8pm, Friday, April 5**

Botanist **Denis Kearns** will lead us on a trip to this wild and beautiful place. The trip will be limited to 20 people, due to limits prescribed for such tours in the BLM Management Plan. Therefore, if you want to attend, we suggest you contact Denis at *cyclanthera@netscape.net* early, because only 20 people will be allowed to participate.

Please meet at the parking lot of the BLM office at **3801 Pegasus Drive** at **8:30am** for carpooling. If you have a four-wheel drive or AWD, please let Denis know that when you RSVP and plan to drive it. We will leave promptly at **8:45am** and this will be a full-day field trip. There are restrooms at the Visitor Center at Carrizo. Bring your lunch, water, a sunhat, sunscreen and boots you can hike in.

April 13, Saturday

NATIVE GARDEN TOUR IN BAKERSFIELD
with **Monica Tudor**
Contact: **Monica Tudor** – *dosportas@msn.com*
RSVP Deadline: **8pm, Tuesday, April 9**

This native garden tour will visit up to three native plant gardens in Bakersfield. It will be an opportunity to see different species in bloom and various ways to landscape with natives. Plan on this being a morning's activity.

You are welcome to take photos and may want to bring water and sun protection. We assume the participants will drive their own vehicles to each location. Please **RSVP to Monica Tudor** at the above email address. Participants will be given the addresses of the gardens after RSVPs.

Photo: Patty Gradek

April 27, Saturday

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE GARDEN FEST,
CNPS NATIVE PLANT SALE &
WILDFLOWER EXHIBIT

(See description on next page) This is the time and place of our **Annual Spring Native Plant Sale**. We also will have a display of local wildflowers collected, identified and labeled by our member-volunteers.

Photo: Dinah Campbell

A sampling of local wildflowers identified and labeled from the 2018 wildflower exhibit.

May 18, Saturday

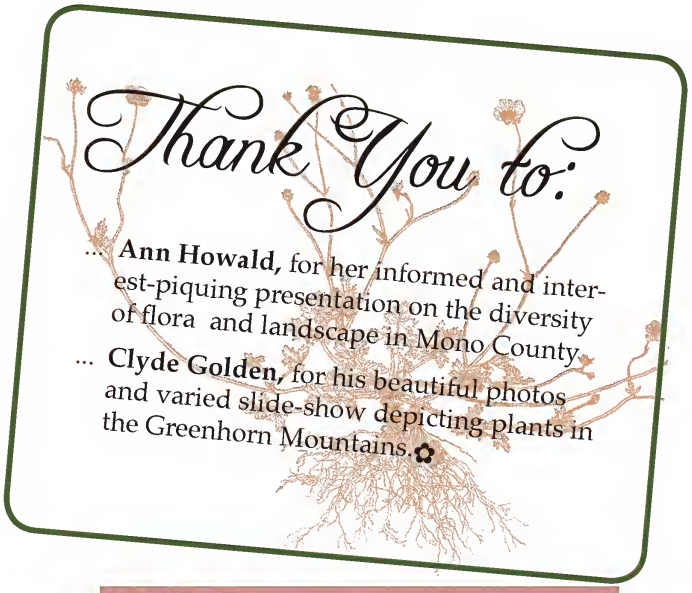
WINDMILL-WILDFLOWER HIKE
WITH THE SIERRA CLUB
with **Paul Gipe**
Contact: **Paul Gipe** — *pgipe@igc.org*

(See description on page 3.) This is not an official Kern CNPS field trip, but there are often flowers out for viewing in the course of the six-mile hike. There is little time, however, for close flower investigation.

Unscheduled Field Trips

(A note from President Rich Spjut) Field trips will probably be scheduled on **short notice**, one week or so in advance. I will schedule a field trip in **July** for either **Mt. Pinos** or **Mt. Abel**. I will also check with the Forest Service in a few weeks to ask the prognosis for **Sunday Peak**. Tentatively we would like to go there in **mid-June**.

Check your e-mail for notification about these possible field trip opportunities. ✿



Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9am — 4pm; Free admission, Free Parking

GARDEN FEST IS AN OPEN HOUSE FEATURING Bakersfield College's environmental, horticulture and agriculture programs that draws thousands of visitors to the **BC** campus for a day of family fun.

- 150 vendor booths featuring gardening, farmers' market, cooking, outdoor leisure, arts and crafts, environmentally-friendly home improvement ideas.
- carnival games and prizes presented by BC student clubs and organizations
- seminars on gardening with live radio broadcast hosted by BC Plant Professor **Lindsay Ono** and landscape professional **Dale Edwards**.
- "*Grilling with the Chef*" meat and vegetable grilling demo.

In Memoriam: Sandy Hare

by Georgette Theotig

THE NATURAL WORLD RECENTLY LOST A very good friend. **Sandy Hare**, who passed away on October 23, was a strong advocate for resource protection of the public lands of eastern Kern County. Sandy and her husband, **Jon**, were residents of Tehachapi for many years.

Both were employed by the **Tehachapi Unified School District**, and also owned and operated a native plant nursery in Sand Canyon. Sandy led class field trips to **Red Rock Canyon State Park** annually, introducing countless first graders to the mysteries of the desert. Her love of the natural world compelled her to become an impassioned activist for protection of the public lands north and east of Tehachapi, chiefly in **BLM Study Areas** offered for wind energy and for establishing the **Middle Knob ACEC**.

The challenging job of resource documentation was accomplished by leading many public field trips, taking photographs, and engaging botanists, geologists, and archaeologists in the effort to record the vast resources of the BLM parcels. Sandy's meticulous field survey forms were submitted to county and state agencies and became a valuable record in defense of resource protection.

I have fond memories of Sandy and me exploring the pinyon pine/juniper woodlands together, botanizing and discovering the natural treasures there. Sandy was especially excited to locate two species: **Kern buckwheat** (*Eriogonum kennedyi* var. *pinicola*) and **Spanish needle onion** (*Allium shevockii*) on our hikes. Thanks to Sandy's thorough and relentless efforts, we now have a larger resource record for the vast public lands of eastern Kern County. Thank you, Sandy, for your much appreciated work, and for inspiring us to do our part in protecting the natural world.

For those who knew her, a celebration of life will be held at **Red Rock Canyon** on **Saturday, April 6th**. For information Contact **Carol Rush** at carol@redrockrrcia.org or **Bugs Fontaine** at joe@redrockrrcia.org ✿

Photo courtesy John Game

Spanish needle onion (*Allium shevockii*)

Contacts:

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The Kern Chapter of the

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

California Native Plant Society meets the third Thursday of each month at:
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
City Centre, Room 1A or 1B
1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA.
Chapter website: kern.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons — professional and amateur — with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Fremontia, *a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the* Bulletin, *a statewide report of activities and schedules; and* The Mimulus Memo, *the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.*

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at www.cnps.org.

Student/Limited Income – $25
Individual – $45
Family or Library – $75

CNPS-Kern Chapter
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California Native Plant Society
KERN CHAPTER

Mimulus Memo

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